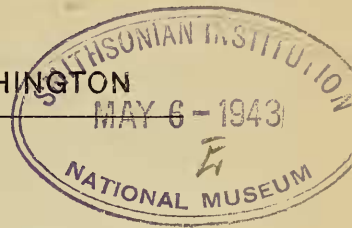


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW SPECIES OF FINCH FROM ECUADOR.

BY JOHN T. ZIMMER.

Among a number of birds received from eastern Ecuador is a specimen of a finch closely allied to the genus *Saltator*. It may be known as follows.

Saltator cinctus, new species.

Type from Cutucú [near Macas], eastern Ecuador; altitude 2,000 meters. No. 748,391 American Museum of Natural History. Adult female collected December 28, 1940, by Leopoldo Gomez.

Diagnosis.—Somewhat resembles males of *Pitylys grossus grossus* of Amazonia in color of upper parts but very different below. Throat broadly black instead of white; black pectoral band narrower; white chest patch broader and more posterior in position; belly and under tail-coverts white instead of gray; tail much more strongly graduated and broadly tipped with white; bill a little smaller, black instead of reddish, and without a tooth on the middle of the maxillary tomium.

Compared with *Saltator aurantiirostris albociliaris* of eastern Perú, the coloration is quite different. Upper parts darker and more bluish slate; forehead not broadly black; no white stripe above auriculars; throat broadly black instead of white; pectoral bar narrower and straighter, less arcuate; belly and under tail-coverts white instead of ochraceous; flanks gray instead of brownish; under wing-coverts gray instead of whitish; three outer rectrices with broad tips of nearly equal extent and tail much more graduated; bill blackish.

Range.—Known only from Cutucú, Ecuador.

Description of type.—Upper parts Dark Plumbeous (Ridgway) the subterminal parts of the feathers more dusky; nostril feathering, lores, a very narrow line above eye, the malar region, auriculars, chin, and upper throat black, forming a broad mask; this is continued posteriorly in a broad stripe that crosses the breast, leaving a broad, triangular patch of white on the chest; extreme sides of breast, sides of neck, broad flanks, and thighs Deep Neutral Gray (Ridgway); belly broadly white; under tail-coverts white with mostly concealed gray subterminal areas. Remiges blackish with gray outer margins, paler on the primaries; upper wing-

coverts similar; under wing-coverts gray with a few whitish tips; bend of wing inconspicuously whitish; inner margins of remiges tinged with drab. Tail black, strongly graduated, the feathers somewhat broadly pointed, with outer feathers 33 mm. shorter than the middle ones; outer three pairs with broad white tips (20 mm. in length on outermost pair); next two pairs with tips noticeably shorter; median pair with only inconspicuous white points at the tip. Bill (in dried skin) black, with a touch of dull red toward the tip of each side of the maxilla and a larger and paler area near the tip of the mandible; gonys with a fine ridge; feet black. Wing, 98 mm.; tail, 108; exposed culmen, 18; culmen from base, 21; tarsus, 26.25.

In spite of the close resemblance to *Pitylus grossus* in dorsal coloration, the affinities of the present species appear to be with *Saltator* rather than with *Pitylus* as that genus is currently distinguished. The tarsus is longer than the culmen from base and the median portion of the maxillary tomium is without a prominent tooth. In the shape of the bill, as well as in the white-tipped rectrices, there is a certain similarity to members of the *Saltator aurantiirostris* group, but the coloration is divergent and the strong graduation of the tail reaches an extreme not found in the other members of the genus *Saltator* nor in *Pitylus*.

There is some possibility that the specimen is wrongly sexed since the pattern is quite sharp and clear, whereas in the females of these birds the colors are inclined to be a little duller, especially in *Pitylus*. In any case, the discovery of the other sex, whichever it may prove to be, will be awaited with much interest.